

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 ISO-00 DLOS-09 CG-00 EB-08 TRSE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5750
INFO DIRECTO NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE US
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE WASHDC

UNCLAS TOKYO 3440

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EFIS, JA
SUBJECT: PORPOISE KILL

REF: TOKYO 3160

1. SUMMARY: KILLING PORPOISE OFF IKI ISLAND MAY CONTINUE
ACCORDING TO PRESS STATEMENT IN JAPAN TIMES. FISHERMEN APPARENTLY
MISUNDERSTAND DEPTH OF FEELING IN U.S. AND OTHER COUNTRIES ON
PROTECTION OF MARINE MAMMALS AND HAVE INDICATED THAT THEY BELIEVE
"ANIMAL LOVERS" WOULD BE MORE UNDERSTANDING IF THEY UNDERSTOOD THE
HARD LIFE OF FISHERMEN. END SUMMARY.

2. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, FISHERMAN'S ASSOCIATION TUESDAY
MEETING IN NAGASAKI PREFECTURE RESULTED IN AGREEMENT THAT
A) CONTINUED PORPOISE KILL MAY BE NECESSARY B) MORE EFFORTS BE
MADE TO USE PORPOISE AS FOOD C) GOVERNMENT SHOULD PROMOTE BETTER
UNDERSTANDING OF FISHERMEN'S PLIGHT. PRESS HAS ALSO REPORTED
TAKE OF PORPOISE AUTHORIZED IN UNITED STATES UNDER MARINE MAMMAL
PROTECTION ACT, BUT RECOGNIZES THAT KILL MAY ADVERSELY AFFECT
ATTITUDE TOWARD JAPAN AT FORTHCOMING IWC MEETING IN LONDON.

3. JAPAN FISHERY AGENCY HAS PROVIDED FISHATT WITH FOLLOWING
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INFORMATION: "THE ISLAND OF IKI, WESTERN KYUSHU, OF ABOUT 40,000
POPULATION DEPENDS ALMOST ENTIRELY ON FISHING FOR LIVING. SEVERAL
YEARS AGO PROFESSOR MIZUE, UNIVERSITY OF TOKYO, ESTIMATED PORPOISE
POPULATION OFF WESTERN KYUSHU AT 300,000. FISHERMEN MAINTAIN THAT
THIS WINTER THERE WAS AN UNUSUALLY LARGE PORPOISE POPULATION OFF
IKI ISLAND. BY INTERFERING WITH FISHING OPERATIONS, THESE PORPOISE
REDUCED INCOME OF FISHERMEN FROM 400 TO 600 MILLION YEN. FISHERMEN

MAINTAIN THEY TRIED SEVERAL WAYS OF DISPERSING PORPOISE POPULATION BUT TO NO AVAIL. ACCORDING TO THEM ONLY AS LAST RESORT, THEY TOOK ACTION THAT RESULTED IN DEATH OF 1,000 PORPOISE."

4. GOJ OFFICIALS ARE DEEPLY EMBARRASSED BY THE PORPOISE KILL, AND MANY JAPANESE CITIZES HAVE PROTESTED ALSO. HENCE THE DEFENSSIVE REACTION OF IKI FISHERMEN WHO FEEL THEIR LIVELIHOOD IS AT STAKE AND THAT THEY ARE VINDICATED BY FACT THAT THEY ARE LEGALLY ALLOWED A BOUNTY FOR EACH PORPOISE KILLED.
MANSFIELD

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